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Annual Edition 2002

Reserve Band Salutes American Military with Celine Dion



Members of the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, under the direction of Maj Alan Clark, rehearse May 2 for its part in the CBS prime time special, "Rockin' the USA— A Salute to the U.S. Military." (USAF Photo)

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. – May 21 - The Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve shared the stage May 25 with top name entertainers in a CBS television special "Rockin' the USA – A Salute to the U.S. Military." Taped May 2 aboard the aircraft carrier USS Truman, the special aired at 9 p.m. May 21st on CBS affiliates nationwide.

The band performed a 10-minute patriotic opener for the taping and then came back on stage for the finale to accompany Grammy award-winning singer Celine Dion and the entire cast in "God Bless America."

"The taping session lasted two hours and the broadcast version is only an hour, so we don't know if they used any of the opener," said Maj Alan Clark, commander of the Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve. "But I'm sure they'll use the finale with Celine and the rest of the cast."

The cast included entertainers Clint Black, Lonestar, Jessica Simpson, Marc Anthony, the Miami Sound Machine and comedian Jeff Foxworthy. Cuba Gooding Jr. served as emcee.

During breaks in the taping for set changes, the band's Dixie Express component entertained the more than 5,000 military and civilian guests in the audience, including the Secretary of the Navy Gordon England. "This band is incredible," quipped singer Dion during her only rehearsal with the band just hours before the actual taping. "It's very emotional to be on stage and perform with them."

The two days the band spent in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where the carrier was in port temporarily, were fast and furious. Arriving late May 1, the band went directly to the carrier for an afternoon rehearsal, had dinner on board ship and performed for a dress rehearsal that evening. Another component of the band, the Brass Quintet, also performed during the Navy's Sailor of the Year banquet that evening. The next morning, the band provided ceremonial music for a multi-service swearing-in ceremony. More than 150 recruits recited their oath, led by the secretary of the Navy.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the band headed back to the carrier to rehearse with Celine Dion. It was dinner on board ship again and then time for the final taping session. With additional commitments waiting for them on May 3, the band headed back to Robins AFB at the end of the taping.

"It meant a lot to represent the Air Force and Air Force Reserve Command in this military salute – we knew we had to get it right," Maj Clark said. "I couldn't be more proud. I'm extremely proud of the band and all the work they put into the performance. With less than a week's notice about the show, they put the opener together and learned Celine's version of *God Bless America*. And, they nailed it!" (AFRC News Service)

Members of the Band of the U.S. Air Force Reserve perform the song "God Bless America" with singer Celine Dion May 2 aboard the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman.



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(USAF Photo by Staff Sgt Dominic Hauser)

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Members of Reserve Generation pose for a picture after a day of recording.
(Photo by TSgt Craig Stevens)

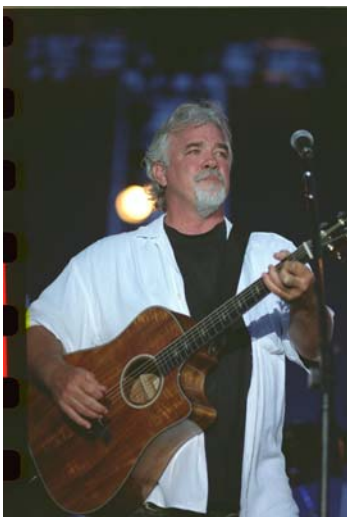
Reserve Generation Releases New "Drug Free" Recording

By: TSgt Craig Stevens
Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve

The Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve has released a new recording by the popular music ensemble Reserve Generation titled *Generation df*. This is the third recording sponsored by the Air Force Reserve Command's Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP) that supports the "Drug Free" shows performed by Reserve Generation. Reserve Generation has been performing "Drug Free" concerts for 11 years in cities across America and in Europe for elementary and middle school students. The music on this recording is aimed at students in grades 4-8 to deliver to them the messages "Just Say No" and "Drug Free is the Way to Be." The AFRC Executive Director for DDRP granted permission to Reserve Generation to distribute a copy of this recording to each student that attends a "Drug Free" show performance. With this CD, students will be able to play the music at home

and continuously receive the "Drug Free" message. "Our goal with these CDs and live performances is to help at least one child and hopefully influence many others to say no to drugs and alcohol," said MSgt Tim Fountain, former Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Reserve Generation.

Production for *Generation df* took place at Masterlink studios in Nashville Tennessee during August of 2001. Mr. Dave Cherry served as recording engineer and associate producer on all three recordings for "Drug Free." SSgt Rob Walker (guitar) and TSgt Craig Stevens (keyboard and vocals) served as co-producers for this recording project. They collaborated on the compositions, arranged the charts, rehearsed the band, and coordinated the production schedule for the studio. MSgt Tim Fountain (lead and background vocals) coordinated the design of the CD cover art work and layout with AFRC graphic artist Ms. Wendy Hudson. The remaining members on the recording include SMSgt Patrick Fegan, audio technician and Band Production Superintendent, SSgt Tamiko Boone, lead and background vocals, SSgt Aaron Miles, lead and background vocals, SSgt Dustin Hertz on drums, and SrA Kurt Morrow on bass guitar.



Gary Morris and his son Matt (right) perform with the Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve.
(Photos by David Ballengee)

Celebrating Independence Day with Gary Morris

By: A1C Dandrick Glenn
Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve

Fifteen thousand people enjoyed an evening of lights, music, and fireworks as the Concert Band helped the city of Warner Robins celebrate our nation's birthday at the 19th annual Independence Day Concert. Grammy award-winning and world-renowned vocalist Gary Morris was the featured guest artist. The creator of the role of Jean Valjean in the American Broadway production of *Les Misérables*, his original rendition of *Wind Beneath My Wings* won both the County Music Association and Academy of Country Music Song of the Year Awards.



Dixie Express Performs at Major League Baseball Spring Training

By: A1C Dandrick Glenn
Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve

Dixie Express added traditional New Orleans jazz to “America’s Game” during Major League Baseball’s Spring Training. From March 26- 28, Dixie Express performed at the New York Yankees versus Pittsburgh Pirates and the Cleveland Indians versus Atlanta Braves Spring Training games in sunny Florida. “We don’t always get to see the games, but it’s fun to play for so many people at once and to be displayed above the arena on the giant video monitors,” said SSgt Charles Anderson, the group’s Noncommissioned Officer in Charge. Dixie Express has been fortunate to perform at other major and minor league sporting events. Every year the group performs in support of the Macon Braves, a local minor league baseball team. Two minor league hockey teams, the Mobile Mysticks and New Orleans Brass, and the NBA’s Dallas Mavericks have invited Dixie Express for performances. “Our primary objective is achieved when the announcer introduces the band and reads the Air Force Reserve key messages to the crowd,” said SSgt Anderson. “This is a great way to reach out to a large number of people.” In 2003, Dixie Express is slated to perform during an Indianapolis Colts football game and the Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World 500 NASCAR race in Atlanta, Georgia.



Dixie Express performs for the Pittsburgh Pirates during a Band Strike Package. (USAF photo by MSgt Cathleen Snow)

SSgt Granger Serves as ITEC's Competition Coordinator

By: A1C Dandrick Glenn
Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve

SSgt Bill Granger, tubist with the Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve, was invited for the first time to serve as the Competitions Coordinator for the International Tuba Euphonium Conference (ITEC). He had the task of organizing and tallying the results of the Young Artist Tuba/ Euphonium competition for middle and high school students, Artist Tuba/ Euphonium Competition, Mock Tuba Orchestral Audition, Mock Euphonium Band Audition, Tuba Ensemble, and the Jazz Tuba/Euphonium Competition. “Every competition and audition is done in rounds to prepare these talented young musicians for professional performing jobs,” said SSgt Granger. This job provided new challenges for SSgt Granger and gave him the opportunity to work with some of the best tuba and euphonium players in the world. The competitions began before the conference itself. “Part of one’s training in the Air Force Band Career Field is to attend major conferences on your major instrument, and all expenses are paid,” said SSgt Granger. “It was great to serve at this conference and represent the Air Force.”



Introducing Southern Aire

By: A1C Dandrick Glenn
Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve

Southern Aire is the newest component of the Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve, making their official debut in June 2002. The group uses traditional Celtic instrumentation which includes Irish wood flute, tin whistle, Irish *bodhran* drum, and Scottish small pipes. Southern Aire had its beginnings with a performance during the Macon, Georgia Chamber Recital Series in 1999 featuring a bagpiper and guitar. Over time members of the Pipe Band took the initiative to learn and excel on multiple Celtic instruments, creating the versatility necessary for a new ensemble. In addition to the group's traditional musical style, Southern Aire adds bass guitar, keyboard, and drum set to perform Celtic Rock and expand its musical appeal. "I work with five of the most professional and motivated musicians I've ever known," said MSgt Scott Gunn, the group's Noncommissioned Officer in Charge. "The group is not only moving upward in its ability, creativity, and enthusiasm; it's taking giant leaps."



Southern Aire assembles for a group photograph after performing at the 31st Charleston Scottish Games, held at Boone Hall Plantation in Mount Pleasant, SC. (USAF Photo by SSgt Quinton T. Burris)

Reserve Band Featured at Great American Brass Band Festival



The Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve performs for a capacity audience at the Great American Brass Band Festival. (Photo by Ken Hackman)

By: A1C Dandrick Glenn
Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve

For the fourth straight year, the Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve was featured at the Great American Brass Band Festival held June 14-16 2002. Over the weekend the band performed for over 50,000 people. The Concert Band performed Saturday and Sunday featuring MSgt Tracey Wright, lead vocalist with the United States Air Force's premier jazz ensemble, the Airmen of Note. Members of the Marching Band and Dixie Express were also featured in several other performances. Portions of this year's festival were broadcast on National Public Radio on July 4, 2002. According to Arbitron figures, the festival reached a radio audience of 16,700, making this event a huge success.

Gathering of Eagles

By: A1C Dandrick Glenn
Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve

The Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve was privileged to help honor sixteen American aviators at the 21st annual Gathering of Eagles program held at the Montgomery, Alabama Civic Center June 8, 2002. This special aviation event was held in conjunction with the Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) graduation ball. The first official Gathering of Eagles program began in 1982 when ACSC leadership requested the faculty and students to develop an aviation heritage program for the graduating class. A team of ACSC faculty and four officers selected fifteen distinguished aviators who served in the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, and National Aeronautics and Space Administration. These aviators were invited to share their unique experiences through interviews and social events with members of the class.

The band played a major part in this year's program. The band's production team worked tirelessly to provide lighting and other technical support for the event. Members of the Jazz Ensemble were clad in United States Army Air Corps uniforms in tribute to the aviators. The tribute included video footage of each aviator backed by music from the band. "Maj Phillip Waite, a student at ACSC, developed the script, coordinated video production and narrated the program," said Maj Alan Clark, Commander and Conductor of the Band of the United States Air Force Reserve. "Mr. David Ballengee, our Deputy Director, directed the video portion while the band provided musical support." After the aviators were honored, the ACSC graduates danced the night away to the vintage sounds of the Jazz Ensemble's Big Band Swing Show.

"This was the first time the band coordinated live music and recorded video production on this scale, a fitting tribute to the sixteen aviators who were honored as 2002 Eagles," said Maj Clark.



The mission of the Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve is to provide musical support for Air Force and Air Force Reserve recruiting programs; official military functions and ceremonies; troop morale, esprit de corps, and personnel retention at Air Force installations; and Air Force and Department of Defense (DoD) community relations programs.

For more information about the Band of the U. S. Air Force Reserve, log on to

www.afrc.af.mil/hq/band, or call (478) 327-0555.

For more information about careers in the United States Air Force Reserve, log on to

www.afreserve.com, or call (800) 257-1212.

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